

ARKANSAS APIARY NEWSLETTER

State Plant Board - Apiary Section

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Apiary Section Opens Webpage

The apiary section has opened a webpage. Although it isn't totally finished, the webpage has a ton of information, forms, links to other sites and more. On it many topics concerning bees, bee diseases & pests, remedies and pest management can be found. There's information for beginning beekeepers, explanations about pollination, apiary and related laws, applications for registration & forms for reporting the use of Section 18 products. The forms cannot be filled out on line but can be printed and filled out and mailed. They also can be saved into a word program and filled in before printing. Also, on the webpage there are archives of recent newsletters as well as the most current issues.

To access the Arkansas Apiary Section's webpage: go to the State Plant Board's Website at: www.plantboard.org. From there, toward the top of the page there is a link to "Plant Industries. Inside Plant Industries you will find a link labeled "Apiary.

If your computer doesn't already have it, inside the page there are opportunities to download Adobe Reader that is needed to access many of the links. The links are all in green and underlined and are accessible by clicking on them. Most of the articles are printable.

People who wish to get the Apiary Newsletter through the mail can continue to do so. Those who would be just as happy to just find the newsletter on the webpage and read it on line or print it are welcome to request to discontinue the mailed edition by notifying the Apiary Section. You can call and ask for Dana or email to: apiary@aspb.ar.gov

For people who do not have computers or the internet, most community libraries have free internet services.

Correction to One of the Africanized Honeybee Finds

Last summer a single bee was captured by a retired beekeeper when he saw the bee "acting suspiciously". The gentleman took the bee to the Franklin County Extension Agent who forwarded what was left of the dried-up sample to the University. Faculty at the University used the sample to do a Mitochondrial DNA study that showed the bee to be Africanized. Based on those results, we reported that there was an Africanized bee find near Ozark in Franklin Co.

Recently the University up-graded its DNA diagnosis capabilities. The lone sample from Ozark was run in two new methods that showed that the sample had been misdiagnosed.

So, in short, the report of a find of an Africanized Bee in Franklin County has been retracted.

Products with Section 18 Status for the Year

At this time we are still waiting for the Section 18 status for CheckMite+. It looks as though Api-Life Var is going to be re- approved this quite soon. It is not legal to use any products to control pests without either Section 18 or Section 3 in place.

Spring is Here

March is past and it's April. Flowers are "springing up" everywhere. The weather is warming, the days are lengthening and the world is a buzz.

As spring blossoms the queen bees are stimulated by the increased activity of the workers bringing in nectar and pollen. Drones are in full production. Brood is hatching and being re-laid and the hives' populations are rapidly growing.

Swarming is natural instinct of bees. It's a way for them to continue and protect their species. It's what bees do in spring.

That does not mean that it's the best thing from the beekeeper's point of view. Most beekeepers want their bees to make surplus honey. This requires that bee populations are large before and during nectar flows. Swarming creates small bee colonies; not colonies that will make surplus honey crops.

There's a whole spectrum of methods and theories for controlling swarming. While many people think that swarming is just a sign of the bees being too crowded and giving them more room will remedy the problem, others think that the only way to control swarming is to divide the colony, which, in fact, is just making an artificial swarm. In reality there are many techniques that fall between this two that have various amounts of success. One method that does have some success is simply re-queening with a new, young queen. Requeening with swarm cells can work but, in fact, this is selecting for more swarming in the future.